

Aleix Plademunt
Spain

Reykjavík, 2. september 2021
UST202106-235/P.V.B.
09.06.01

Application for a permit to visit Surtsey

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Aleix Plademunt, dated June 21st 2021, for permission to visit Surtsey.

The Surtsey Nature Reserve

Surtsey is protected as a nature reserve cf. Advertisement no. 50/2006. As stated in Article 2 the objective of declaring Surtsey a protected area is to ensure that development of the island will be in keeping with the principles of nature itself. The purpose of conservation is to ensure that colonisation by plants and animals, biotic succession and the shaping of geological formations will be as natural as possible, and that human disruption will be minimized. The declaration of conservation is based *inter alia* upon the great value of the area in scientific and nature conservation terms, both for Iceland and internationally; the area has complete and undisturbed natural features which reflect the developmental processes of nature, and which are highly sensitive to disruption. According to Article 5 on access to the nature reserve it is prohibited to go ashore on Surtsey or to dive by the island except for research purposes and related activities and Article 6 (1) states that it is prohibited to disturb vegetation, animal life or geological formations or other natural features within the reserve.

Written permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed to visit the island and/or dive within the nature reserve. Permits to visit are issued exclusively for research purposes and/or for projects directly related to research. Photographers and filmmakers can apply for permits to visit to produce documentary material relating to Surtsey and associated research projects situated within the designated nature reserve.

Description of the project:

The purpose of the project is to take pictures and videos for an art exhibition in Barcelona and Madrid. To make the project the applicant asks for a permit to stay in Surtsey island for 2-3 days between September 1st and 15th 2021.

Conclusions:

According to the regulation permits to visit are issued exclusively for research purposes and/or for projects directly related to research. Photographers and filmmakers can apply for permits to visit to produce documentary material relating to Surtsey and associated research projects situated within the designated nature reserve. After reviewing the project's description the Environment Agency concludes that the project has little educational or scientific value and therefore it does not fulfil the criteria for a permit to visit the island. The Environment Agency of Iceland thereby **declines** Aleix Plademunt application for a permit to visit Surtsey.

The decision may be appealed to the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources according to Article 26 of the Administrative Procedures Act no. 37/1993, based on Article 91 of the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, within three months from the date of this letter.

Fee for processing the application:

The Environment Agency of Iceland has decided not to charge a fee for processing this application for a permit to visit Surtsey due to delay in processing the application.

Sincerely

Inga Dóra Hrólfsdóttir
director

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson
advisor